

Fundy Discovery Site Pedestrian AT Bridge – RFP Results

DATE PRESENTED: June 12, 2025
COMMITTEE: Council
PURPOSE

To provide Council Committee with background information and highlights of the 6 responses received to a Request for Proposals for the construction of a pedestrian

bridge at the Fundy Discovery Site. The Proposals are currently undergoing a rigorous technical review before a recommendation is brought to Council at the end of June.
BACKGROUND
The concept of reinstating a pedestrian bridge across the Salmon River at the Fundy Discovery Site has been concep-

tualized since the early 1980's. A crossing at this location was established in 1850's linking western to northern Nova Scotia but was removed after construction of Highway #102 in 1970.
Following the Municipality's acquisition of the former Palliser Motel property in 2015, a masterplan was pre-

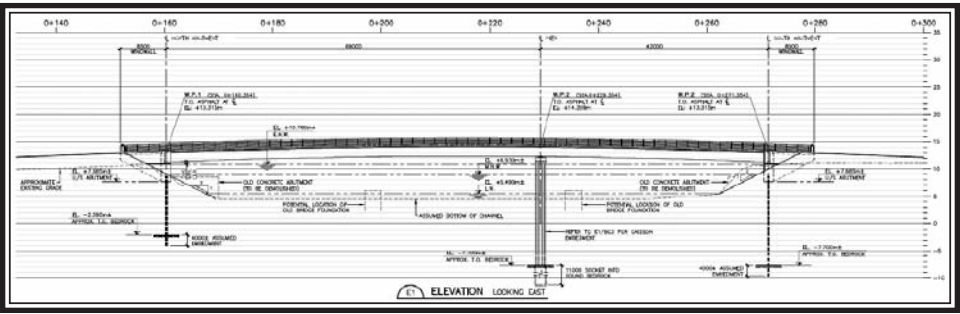
pared by Upland Planning & Design which focussed on establishing the Fundy Discovery Site as a major tourism anchor for the region. With a subsequent interpretative and updated business plan prepared by Aldrich Pears in 2020, work on developing the site has progressed with an overwhelming response from locals and visitors alike. It is also intended to serve as a gateway to the UNESCO designated Cliffs of Fundy Geopark.
With completion of several projects including a natural playground, amphitheater, public washrooms, visitor information center, dyke trails, extensive landscaping and a tidal viewing platform, the bridge project was identified as the next major capital investment in the property. This coincided with completion of the Nova Scotia Blue Route in Onslow as well as the then launched ICIP funding program.

Since 2020, Council's capital budget included \$11 million for the construction of a pedestrian bridge at the Fundy Discovery Site. The Municipality was successful in an application to the federal / provincial ICIP program that would finance 73.3% of the total project cost. Colchester would be responsible for the remaining amount or \$2.9 M.
The suspension bridge design completed by COWI Engineering was tendered on two previous occasions through a conventional tender process, but the bid prices were significantly higher than the budgeted amount. It had been decided a "design - build" approach may be a better option to reduce costs and bring the project closer to the \$11 M budget. This approach essentially places the responsibility

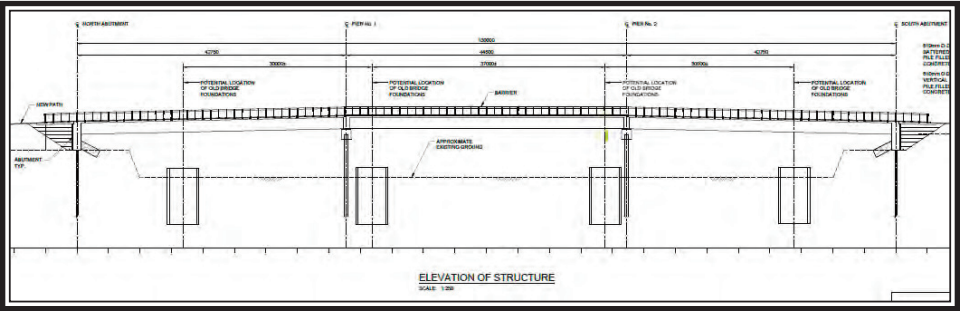


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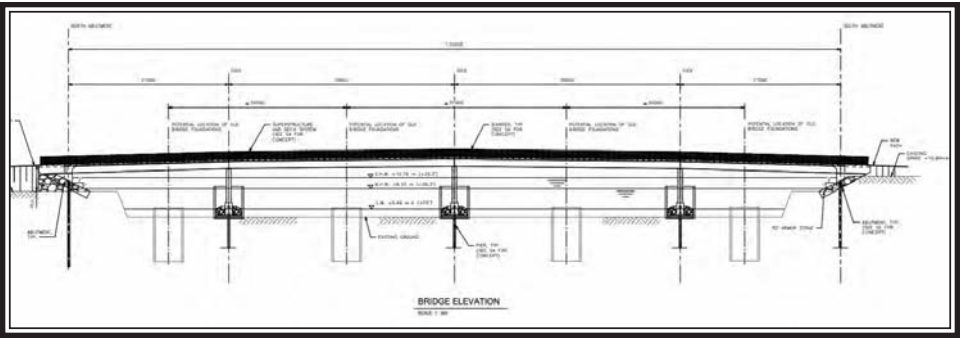
on the design - build team to develop a design that more closely aligns with the budget.
Recently, the Municipality also received approvals from Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Transport Canada to place piers in the river. This has allowed respondents to propose more cost-effective design solutions to span the 110-meter-wide river. This approach has been used by all but one respondent, resulting in a significant price reduction.
A Request for Proposals (RFP) was issued on April 8, 2025 and closed on June 2, 2025 with 6 firms submitting bids for the bridge which will likely take two years to complete. A design criterion (attached for reference) was created to evaluate responses, which in addition to price, enables the review committee and Council to consider both price and experience (80%) and architectural components (20%) of proposed designs.
As illustrated below, the "design - build" approach seems to have produced more cost-effective options than the two previous tendering attempts which yielded prices ranging from \$17.5m to \$27m. A summary of responses to the RFP is outlined below and several proposals also included upgrade options that would involve additional costs. Key highlights of the proposals are outlined below together with images of the concept design:



Dexter Construction & Harbourside Engineering: Price: \$13,385,000
Completion Date: June 2027 Design: Box Girder. Span: 111m supported by one offset "in water" pier.



Caldwell Ross & GEMTEC: Price: \$12,300,000
Completion Date: May 2027 Design: Nested "I" Beam. Span: 130m supported by two "in water" piers.



Greenfield Construction & All-Span Engineering: Price: \$9,720,000
Completion Date: July 2026 Design: Box Girder Span: 130m supported by two or three "in water" piers.

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- 25% off for youth aged 18-24

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- 50% off for youth aged 18-24

NO REGISTRATION NEEDED.

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